

REMARKS

Claims 3, 11, 15 and 17 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 6, 1998.

At the outset, the applicants thank the Examiner for now indicating that claims 4 - 6, 8 and 12 - 15 would be allowable if amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the last full paragraph, page 2 and the first full paragraph, page 3 of the outstanding Action.

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for the specific reasons set forth in the first full paragraph on page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these objections.

First, the Examiner's objections to the drawings resulting from certain language in claim 1 are moot in that claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, in the Amendment filed April 16, 1998.

Secondly, the applicants submit herewith a Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections, along with proposed drawing corrections to Figure 3, marked in red ink.

Moreover, the claims (including independent claim 15 and the claims dependent therefrom), now call for a time-series limitation (as clearly illustrated in the applicants' Figures 2 and 3) rather than a concurrent limitation.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the drawings is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 11 - 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for the specific reasons set forth in the second full paragraph on page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

First, as indicated above, claims 11 and 15 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those to which have been pointed out by the Examiner.

Secondly, the claims (including independent claim 15 and the claims dependent therefrom) now call for a time-series limitation (as clearly illustrated in the applicants' Figures 2 and 3) rather than a concurrent limitation.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Moreover, claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for the specific reason set forth in the fourth full paragraph on page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

As indicated above, claim 3 has been amended so as to now depend on claim 15, instead of claim 1.

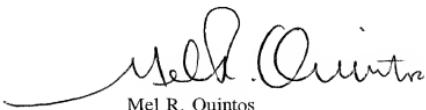
Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney, at the telephone number indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event this response is not timely filed, the applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,898

Atty. Docket No. 950107A

Suite 1000 - 1725 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
Tel (202) 659-2930
FAX (202) 887-0357

MRQ:lrj:ipc

Enclosures: (1) Petition for Extension of Time w/check
(2) Request for Approval of Drawings Corrections